

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CATAMOUNT CLUB

CAT'S PAUSE

FALL 2010 - VOLUME IV

***BRAND-NEW LOOK
TO E. J. WHITMIRE***





Friends,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer of 2010, as it is quickly moving toward the fall. Ours has been a summer of excitement, disappointment, preparation and, most of all, appreciation.

The disappointment has come in the form of budget changes that will dramatically affect our department. The serious economic issues that had to be addressed on the state level caused the loss of the special provision of out-of-state waivers for all state-supported universities. Briefly, this had allowed schools to give non-North Carolina resident students full academic or athletic scholarships at the same cost as resident students. This legislation became effective immediately.

In addition to the rise in tuition, that has presented unanticipated and increased costs of about \$700,000 for WCU athletics in FY 2010-11. Because this change was mandated so late in the budget cycle, we were unable to adjust our scholarship budgets and had already made commitments to hundreds of young men and women, commitments that we will honor. To do so presents a significant challenge for our staff, our coaches and our supporters. I have been working with university officials to develop a plan that will provide the opportunity for athletics to transition to this new funding model. To be successful in this effort will take old-fashioned economics – cut our costs and increase our revenues. Our staff and coaches understand what needs to be done and have already begun to step up. This is a large bump in the road that we must address and overcome together. We will work hard to be successful in this effort while continuing to serve as ambassadors for Western Carolina University.

The excitement has come in many forms. We begin this year with new coaches in men's and women's golf (Carter Cheves and Mallory Hetzel), tennis (Chris Wollett) and soccer (Chad Miller). Coaches Manolo Concepcion (volleyball) and Karen Middleton (women's basketball) are leading teams into their second seasons after stellar recruiting years. The baseball team looks to improve on a season that ended one win shy of a Southern Conference championship, and the softball team is working hard to get into that picture as well. Men's basketball is anticipating another outstanding year to follow up on last season's 22-win season. Coach Danny Williamson's cross country team may be the best in years, complementing his perennial powerhouse track teams.

Oh yes, and football. Going into his third season with the Catamounts, Coach Dennis Wagner has continued to build his team with size, speed and experience. A fan-friendly schedule with every other game at home, including Appalachian State, should help the Cats to an improved season.

The preparation has taken an added dimension this year as we have unveiled PurpleVision, the new video board at E.J. Whitmire Stadium, made possible through the generosity of Pepsi and private donors. From its inception, PurpleVision has been a collaborative undertaking between the Department of Athletics and the faculty and students of the Department of Communication. WCU has some of the most knowledgeable and experienced such faculty anywhere. The advice and support we already have received from Don Connelly, Mark Mattheis and Gabe Nucci has been invaluable in planning for the season. It has changed the game day experience in Cullowhee.

The appreciation is for the many of you who support our work and our student-athletes in every way. The attendance at this year's golf tour events was outstanding. All the funds raised in these events went directly to provide summer school scholarships. By your attendance at our competitions, student-athletes can experience your enthusiasm and encouragement for their efforts. When businesses advertise with us and become WCU athletics sponsors, it helps fund our program. Gifts to the Catamount Club directly fund student-athlete scholarships, and 2009-10 was another record-setting year in annual giving.

In deference to my high school English teacher, it is "the best of times and the worst of times." We face challenges in meeting our obligations financially as well as those that have been made to our student-athletes – that is, to provide a quality and competitive athletic program. However, competitors thrive in adversity, and we certainly are competitors. I hope you will join us for the journey, because the result will be worth the ride.

GO CATAMOUNTS!!!

CHIP SMITH
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



STUDENT-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

A Grand Night at the Biltmore Estate

On April 24, the Catamount Club hosted the inaugural Western Carolina Student-Athlete Scholarship Banquet at the Lioncrest on the Biltmore Estate. More than 110 donors and guests attended the black-tie event, including more than 30 student-athletes of Western Carolina University. The evening began with a reception that allowed donors and student-athletes to meet and greet and was followed by the formal banquet program.

The keynote speaker was former Catamount, Carolina Panther great and Hall of Famer Brad Hoover. The night also included speeches from Jake Robinson of this year's 22-win men's basketball team, Nikki Lombardo of the women's soccer team and assistant basketball coach and recent Hall of Fame inductee Anquell McCollum.



For information on next spring's scholarship banquet, please contact the Catamount Club at 828.227.3794.

CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL

Entering his third season at the helm of the Catamount football team, head coach Dennis Wagner, has adopted the philosophy that the 2010 team is about “believing and not about wishing.”

The Catamount football team will be a young but experienced squad, with 66 of the 90 players consisting of sophomores, freshmen or redshirt freshmen. All the players worked hard over the summer by attending classes and being on campus to participate in workouts.

“Our players were here getting themselves in shape, lifting and running, so when we started camp, we didn’t have to spend time getting in shape,” Wagner said. “This enabled us to spend more time during fall camp working on preparations for N.C. State.”

After a number of close games last year, including the nail-biter in Boone, the team came into this fall with a new understanding of what it will take to win.

“We had four games last year where we led at some point during the game and let them slip away and lost by a touchdown or less,” Wagner noted. “We really believe that if we play to our potential that we’re going to head into that Appalachian State game with a winning record.”

Offensively, the team returns one starting senior in Marquel Pittman. Pittman, a four-year starter and an All-Conference receiver, ranked second in the Southern Conference in catches last year. The injury bug hit the Catamounts this summer as sophomore wide out George Richardson, who made a splash in his freshman year, is out for the season with a broken leg.

Deja Alexander, a transfer from Central Michigan, made an instant impact on the offense, hauling in two touchdown receptions in the first two games. Adding Alexander to experienced returners Josh Cockrell, Jacoby Mitchell and Dre Thomas, all of whom saw action last year, will make the receiving corps deep and dangerous.

In the backfield, Southern Conference offensive freshman of the year, Michael Johnson, is joined by fellow sophomore tailback Nate Harris to form a talented duo that is averaging nearly 100 yards on the ground over the first three games.

A strong position for the Catamounts is at tight end. Chris Everett and Andrew Rogers, both

redshirt juniors, return to bring experience and versatility to the offense. Everett stepped into the starting role last season after Rogers went down with a season-ending knee injury. Both have seen action in the first three games of 2010.

Quarterback was the most contested position during fall practice, with returning redshirt junior Zach Jaynes holding off newcomers: junior Zach Brindise, who transferred from the University of South Carolina, and incoming true freshman Brandon Pechloff of Illinois. Following the Tusculum game, Jaynes decided to end his playing career, citing safety and future health concerns stemming from a herniated disc that he suffered last year.

Wagner named Brindise the starter following his 300-yard, four-touchdown performance in the Catamounts’ loss to Tusculum in relief of Jaynes. Brindise did not disappoint; in his first start, at Gardner-Webb University, he led the offense to a huge road win against a previously undefeated Bulldogs team that had upset FBS opponent University of Akron the week before.

The quarterback position is protected by a young but experienced offensive line. With one senior and junior, this youthful group of freshmen and sophomores will be charged with keeping the opposing team’s defense from getting into the backfield.

“Nate Postelle, Teddy Rhoney and Rory Pederson all lettered last year as freshmen and will now fill in those positions in full-time roles,” Wagner said.

“We are very excited, and we know that we have to prepare every guy to play,” he said. “That’s why we recruit and that’s why we coach.”

Defensively, the Catamounts have made strides to improve the secondary and the defensive line.

The secondary has great experience but has added a couple new faces and a returning letterman. Mitchell Bell and Angelo Brown retained their starting spots and will be joined in the secondary by junior Torez Jones (school record four interceptions in the Gardner-Webb game) and newcomers Reggie America and Elijer Martinez.

Moving from the quarterback position to “drop” linebacker are Randy Pressley and

2010 Football Schedule

| | | |
|--------|---|----------|
| SEP 4 | at North Carolina State | L, 48-7 |
| SEP 11 | TUSCULUM (Home Opener) | L, 54-30 |
| SEP 18 | at Gardner-Webb | W, 28-14 |
| SEP 25 | CHATTANOOGA* (Mountain Heritage Day) | 6 pm |
| OCT 2 | at The Citadel* | 1 pm |
| OCT 9 | SAMFORD* (Homecoming) | 3 pm |
| OCT 16 | at Wofford* | 1:30 pm |
| OCT 23 | APPALACHIAN STATE* (Battle for the Old Mountain Jug) | 3 pm |
| OCT 30 | OPEN | TBA |
| NOV 6 | at Furman* | TBA |
| NOV 13 | GEORGIA SOUTHERN* (Hall of Fame) | 3 pm |
| NOV 20 | at Elon* | 3 pm |

MARQUEL PITTMAN

Home away from home

Marquel is from Purnell Swett High School located in Maxton.

In the classroom

Pittman is on course to graduate in the fall of 2010 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Why WCU?

When Marquel came to his official visit at Western Carolina, everyone treated him well and he felt this was the best choice. During Pittman's recruiting process, the coaching staff was expecting to have a great freshman class, which also helped Marquel to choose Western Carolina University.

Memorable moment at WCU

Marquel's most memorable experience at Western Carolina University isn't an event or moment, but an entire season. He told Cat's Pause that when he broke his hand in his freshman year and was still able to play and finish the season, while still having a very productive year, was his most memorable experience at WCU.

Personal goals

Going into his last year, Pittman plans to lead the football team to a conference title. He has been working hard during the spring camps and the summer to get himself and the entire team ready for this thrilling and exciting season.

In his future

When Marquel finishes his college playing career, he will arguably be one of the best to have put on a Catamount football jersey. With his accolades and hard work, he hopes to have the chance to fulfill his dream of playing in the National Football League.



Adam Hearn. Hearn will complete his final year as a walk-on after taking two years off from his college football career.

"We believe that Adams Hearn is going to be a tremendous player at the position that we have him at now," Wagner said.

The defensive line is the deepest that Wagner's staff has had. Returning starters C.J. Johnson, Charles Johnson and Trey Selby have been joined by true freshman Roland Johnson to

strengthen an area that the defense struggled with last season.

The linebacker position includes Ricky Schwarz, a starter in 2009, and Rock Williams, who saw action last year as a true freshman and leads in tackles after the first three games. Mike Reardon, a transfer student from West Georgia, along with three incoming freshmen, is expected to get extensive playing time this season.

While Wagner believes that this team can head into the Appalachian State game with a record of at least 5-2, he knows it's not about wishing; now it's about believing and doing.

"Top to bottom, this is a great conference," Wagner said. "You have to be prepared for every team in the Southern Conference no matter where they finished last year or their schedule this year."



VOLLEYBALL

Going into his second season, Coach Manuel “Manolo” Concepcion is excited about the great strides that have been made with his team but also saddened by the departure of his assistant coach.

WCU volleyball will be without the services of Assistant Coach Josh Wielebnicki, who has accepted an assistant coaching position at Evansville University, the position that Coach Concepcion held before his hire at WCU.

Wielebnicki will be replaced by Anne Mastandrea, who comes from Northwestern University, where she was director of volleyball operations. She played collegiate ball at Purdue University as a defensive specialist. At Purdue, she ranks third in career digs.

During Concepcion’s first year at WCU, he brought many great changes to rebuilding the volleyball squad. His coaching philosophies have changed the team and include technical aspects, creating highly skilled players and knowledge of the game. Concepcion also has

changed the culture of the team and created a stronger work ethic, mental toughness and a competitive atmosphere. He requires discipline and a commitment to play for this team.

Having that mindset from the players for this year has Concepcion very excited, along with the talent of the incoming freshmen. The 2010 class includes Leah Best, a 6-foot-8-inch middle blocker; Morgan Cochran, the No. 4 ranked libero in the state, from Mebane; Emily Mannie, a setter from Greenville; and Kelcie Randazzo.

Randazzo, a hitter/setter from Orange County, Calif., has played on one of the best teams in Southern California.

“This year’s team is going to be young, but also has a lot of height, which is something that has lacked in previous years,” Concepcion said. “I also feel that this team will have great ball control to help pass and defend and has a great understanding of the system that has

2010 Volleyball Schedule

VB Rags Invitational

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|
| AUG 27 | COPPIN STATE | W, 3-0 |
| AUG 27 | EASTERN KENTUCKY | W, 3-2 |
| AUG 28 | NORTH CAROLINA STATE | L, 3-0 |

Indiana State Tournament

| | | |
|-------|----------------------|--------|
| SEP 3 | at Montana State | L, 3-2 |
| SEP 4 | at Indiana State | L, 3-0 |
| SEP 4 | at SIU-Edwardsville | L, 3-0 |
| SEP 7 | SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | W, 3-2 |

Evansville Tournament

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|
| SEP 10 | at Evansville | L, 3-0 |
| SEP 11 | at Murray State | L, 3-0 |
| SEP 11 | at Loyola | L, 3-0 |
| SEP 15 | PRESBYTERIAN | L, 3-1 |

Western Carolina Invitational

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| SEP 18 | NORTH CAROLINA A&T | W, 3-0 |
| SEP 18 | UNC ASHEVILLE | L, 3-1 |
| SEP 22 | USC UPSTATE | 7 pm |
| SEP 24 | COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON* | 7 pm |
| SEP 26 | BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 3 pm |
| SEP 29 | APPALACHIAN STATE* | 7 pm |
| OCT 2 | UNC GREENSBORO* | 3 pm |
| OCT 3 | ELON* | 3 pm |
| OCT 8 | at Samford* | 8 pm |
| OCT 9 | at Chattanooga* | 7 pm |
| OCT 15 | at Furman* | 7 pm |
| OCT 16 | at Wofford* | TBA |
| OCT 22 | GEORGIA SOUTHERN* | 6 pm |
| OCT 24 | DAVIDSON* | 3 pm |
| OCT 27 | EAST TENNESSEE STATE | 7 pm |
| OCT 30 | at The Citadel* | 2 pm |
| NOV 3 | at Appalachian State* | 7 pm |
| NOV 6 | SAMFORD* | 3 pm |
| NOV 7 | CHATTANOOGA* | 3 pm |
| NOV 12 | at UNC Greensboro* | 7 pm |
| NOV 13 | at Elon* | 7 pm |
| NOV 19-21 | SoCon Tournament | TBA |

been set in place.” The 19 home matches this year will help these young players to transition to the college game and style.

With the team being very young and only having one senior, Paloma Alvarez, Concepcion will look to Alvarez, along with the other seven returning players, for great leadership and experience and to teach the new players the system that Concepcion has set in place.

“These players understand the system, and in order to move forward, they will have to catch the incoming class up to speed,” he said. “I feel that every player plays an equally big role in the rebuilding efforts of this team.”

With this system in place, the team went 2-1 in the Volleyball Rags Western Carolina Invitational at the Ramsey Regional Activity Center, losing only to N.C. State. Since that tournament, the team has struggled, going 2-8. The Catamounts looks to get back on track with the start of conference play.

MEN'S GOLF

Western Carolina men's golf will see a lot of new faces in the 2010-11 season. The departure of five seniors from last year's squad has opened the door for a group of young talent.

New head coach Carter Cheves will introduce four freshmen and a transfer from Anderson College to the team this fall. The newcomers include Jack Walsh (Lawrenceville, Ga.), Collin Witiak (Columbia, S.C.), Greg Bunner (Cherryville), Michael Fitzgerald (Flossmoor, Ill.) and Ryan Booth (Miami). The incoming class is loaded with talented players. Walsh won the 5-A Georgia High School state championship. Witiak is the 2009 Carolinas junior champion while Bunner is a two-time 1-A N.C. high school state champion.

The Catamounts opened their fall campaign at College of Charleston's inaugural Invitational at the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island, S.C. The team finished 12th behind top programs including N.C. State, Vanderbilt and Notre Dame.

"We just didn't all put together good rounds on one day," Cheves said.

The fall season includes trips to the Mason Rudolph, hosted by Vanderbilt, the Wolfpack Invitational and the Davidson Invitational and will conclude in November with Western Carolina's own Hummingbird Intercollegiate at Sapphire Valley Country Club.



WOMEN'S GOLF

This year's schedule gives Western Carolina women's golf a great opportunity to compete against our in-conference rivals as well as several top teams in our region. The 2010-11 women's golf season began at WCU's home tournament, the Great Smokies Invitational, hosted at the Waynesville Inn Golf Resort.

The Catamounts finished in a tie for third with Elon, behind Jacksonville State and Radford at one and two respectively.

Blaire Minter led the way for the Catamounts with a top-10 finish, shooting a two over 74 in the opening round and a two under 70 in the final round. Josefine Sundh and Malin Jansson tied for 16th in the final standings, finishing with a 146.

Mallory Hetzel, the new head coach, has a strong squad returning this fall. This group of women was part of four tournament victories last season, and with no incoming

freshmen, this team will have plenty of tournament experience.

"My goal as a coach is to bring excitement and confidence to the team," Hetzel said. "I look forward to working with each player and helping each student-athlete reach her potential."

In all college athletic programs, recruiting is the most important aspect for a successful program. Hetzel is looking to sign two or three recruits for fall 2011.

"We will look to take advantage of the immense amount of in-state talent this class has to offer. We want our future Catamounts to not only be talented golfers, but we also want to recruit winners in the classroom," Hetzel said. "Well-rounded, motivated athletes are the secret to our success going forward."

The women travel to UNCG for the Starmount Fall Classic, followed by the Tribe Invitational hosted by William & Mary with a finish at Kiawah Island, S.C., for College of Charleston's Palmetto Intercollegiate.

The 2010-11 conference championship will be hosted at Moss Creek golf course in Bluffton, S.C. This will be the third year Moss Creek has hosted, and the team looks to improve significantly from last year's sixth-place finish.



SOCCER

In Chad Miller's first year at the helm of the women's soccer program, he is looking to lean on a very young squad that graduated 10 seniors last spring and is returning only three starters from the 2009 8-6-5 team.

Miller came back to Cullowhee after spending 2009 as the head coach at Catawba College. Miller was an assistant under Tammy DeCesare for three seasons, including 2008, when WCU won the Southern Conference tournament. He came back to Western Carolina University because he "always felt a real sense of community and family within the players and people I worked with."

He later went on to say, "I love the area and think that WCU is a special place to build a solid program." Miller said the Southern Conference also is a very competitive conference.

Miller brings a solid coaching group in Todd Herman and Anna Betton. Miller and Herman are very familiar with each other. They were college teammates and have been friends and colleagues ever since.

"Todd is very ambitious and has a great soccer mind," Miller said. "He was an outstanding goalkeeper and will be a great asset to our players."

Betton, who was a graduate assistant under DeCesare, will continue to be a GA under Miller. "Her personality is infectious, and she has a great knowledge of the Southern Conference with the playing experience at Furman University and winning the SoCon player of the year in 2007," Miller said. Betton will work with the young attacking players.

After returning only three starters due to injuries of two players this team will be very young with little experience.

"The leadership of the seniors will be vital in such a young group," Miller said.

The key returning players from last season are Caitlin Williams at goalkeeper, Kellie Oberholtzer, Liz Eichler and Erin Hamilton. Samantha Hodge and Kayla Beauduy will be two starters who will be out this season with injuries. Williams has had a great three seasons at goalkeeper and will continue that in her final year. She was named Southern Conference tournament MVP in 2008 and holds numerous records. Oberholtzer, also entering her final season, will be in the midfield. Her biggest struggle has been staying healthy over the past three years. She will need to stay healthy and 100 percent to have a terrific senior season. Eichler and Hamilton have been contributors in the success of this

program the past three seasons. Miller is looking for them to be leaders on this young team and have more of an impact.

With such a young group of girls, Miller expects this incoming class to be forced to grow fast and will count on a majority of them this fall. Of the 17 players that DeCesare staff recruited, six stayed committed to WCU and six new commitments have been added with this new staff. Having a new and large number of girls coming into this program, they are building for the future. This fall, the staff will look to get the most out of the group, and how they come together to grow as a team will determine the success this year.

Not only will these players be tested as a young squad, they will have a schedule that plays very solid teams both in conference and out of conference. Coach Miller said about the conference schedule, "Everyone is good enough to cause us problems, especially when you have a very young, inexperienced group." Western Carolina plays a tough out-of-conference schedule with Auburn, UAB, Air Force and Xavier.

"I love the area and think that WCU is a special place to build a solid program."

– Chad Miller



2010 Soccer Schedule

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| AUG 15 | at Gardner-Webb (scrimmage) | L, 1-0 |
| AUG 20 | at Campbell | W, 2-1 |
| AUG 27 | at UNC Asheville | W, 4-0 |
| SEP 3 | at UAB | L, 3-2 |
| SEP 5 | at Auburn | L, 3-0 |
| <i>Catamount Classic</i> | | |
| SEP 10 | AIR FORCE | L, 2-1 |
| SEP 12 | XAVIER | L, 2-1 |
| SEP 17 | FRANCIS MARION | T, 1-1 |
| SEP 19 | HIGH POINT | W, 1-0 |
| SEP 24 | THE CITADEL* | 7 pm |
| SEP 26 | COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON* | 12 pm |
| OCT 1 | at Wofford* | 7 pm |
| OCT 3 | at Furman* | 2 pm |
| OCT 8 | GEORGIA SOUTHERN* | 7 pm |
| <i>(Parents Weekend)</i> | | |
| OCT 10 | DAVIDSON* | 4 pm |
| OCT 15 | at Chattanooga* | 7 pm |
| OCT 17 | at Samford* | 3 pm |
| OCT 21 | at UNC Greensboro* | 6 pm |
| OCT 24 | ELON*(Senior Day) | 2 pm |
| OCT 27 | at Appalachian State* | 7 pm |
| OCT 31, NOV 5, 7 | SoCon Tournament | TBA |

KELLIE THERESA OBERHOLTZER

Home away from home

Kellie was born and raised in Nashua, N.H.

In the classroom

Oberholtzer started at Western Carolina as an athletic training major but later switched to parks and recreation after her freshman year. She explained that her focus within the parks and recreation major is commercial and resort recreation. She will graduate spring 2011.

Why WCU?

"I never heard of WCU until I received an e-mail from the women's soccer coaching staff to come to their summer camp. I wanted to go to school out of New Hampshire, so I decide to go to the camp. After spending the week at camp, I took great interest in the school, the team and the area. Soccer had a big part in me coming to WCU, but the campus being fairly big and the locale of the school not being in a city influenced me to come to WCU. I love being in the warm mountains."

Memorable moments at WCU

"I think that this is one of the hardest questions to answer. There are so many unforgettable experiences I can't pick one. One would be scoring my first goal against Appalachian State in the freezing cold. Another might be beating Top 25-ranked South Carolina at home, or finally winning a Southern Conference championship. Finally, maybe being part of a team (that I have come to know like family). They make every day with them an experience that I am not ready to say goodbye to."

Personal goals

Kellie's personal goal for this season is to win the Southern Conference championship.

"With the playoffs being at Western Carolina's own Catamount Soccer Complex this year, my goal is to be playing instead of watching the games in our own stadium. My wish for my last year as a college athlete is to have our young team come together, play that last championship game, and when the whistle blows, the home team has won."

In her future

"My plan is to get a job on a cruise line as an activity coordinator or work in a parks and recreation facility. Pretty much, wherever a job takes me is where my future will be."





THE 2010 CATAMOUNT GOLF TOUR

The 2010 Catamount Golf Tour's third year saw increases in both participation and sponsorships. The golf tour was created in 2008 to provide an opportunity for WCU athletics to bring the Catamount spirit to the local areas of many of our fans and supporters. Each event on the tour features many of our head coaches, with the proceeds directly supporting the Catamount Athletic Scholarship Fund.

The tour made stops in Marion (the Marion Lake Club), Fort Mill, S.C. (Springfield Golf

Club), Maggie Valley (Maggie Valley Club), Hayesville (The Ridges Golf and Country Club), Waynesville (Laurel Ridge Country Club), Raleigh (River Ridge Golf Club) and Mills River (High Vista Country Club).

Not only has the Catamount Golf Tour generated more than \$100,000 in support of the scholarship fund for WCU athletics during its existence, but it also has reconnected many of our alumni and fans who may have lost touch over the years.

Congratulations to Mark Reeser, Gary Rocket and Kevin Stanberry, who finished tied atop the 2010 golf tour point standings. Points were earned based on player participation and top finishes. A playoff is scheduled for early October to determine an individual winner.

We greatly appreciate the tremendous work and support of all hosts, sponsors and participants. We hope to see you next year as we strive to fulfill our mission: "Funding Scholarships, Wins Championships!"

PURPLEVISION MAKES SPLASH AT E. J. WHITMIRE STADIUM



History was made at E. J. Whitmire Stadium on the evening of Sept. 11, 2010, when PurpleVision debuted at the home opener versus Tusculum. This new addition to Catamount athletics, operated in collaboration with WCU's Department of Communication, brings an exciting, larger-than-life dimension to Catamount football games.

Western Carolina University athletics would like to thank Pepsi for purchasing the new video scoreboard and the generosity of numerous supporters who made gifts to help fund the installation and pay for the new equipment that made the scoreboard a reality.

Hall of Fame

Larry and Mary Arbaugh
Tobe and Barbara Childers
Van Stayton
John and Karen Teller

All-Conference

Tom and Carol Henson
Kenny Messer
Jim and Teresa Watson

Captain

Betty Allen
Sam and Janice Freeman
Dale and Dianne Hollifield
Marvin and Patricia Schubert
Bill and Pam Stanley

Starter

Duran and Nancy Brown
John and Joanne Brown
Gurney and Anne Chambers
Alex and Kelly Crenshaw
Bob and Kay Folsom
Suzanne and Gus Henry
Leroy and Ginny Holden
Jason Lowman
Woody and Diane Padgett
Will Thurman
Fred RosenKampff

All donors who make gifts of \$500 or greater to WCU football through June 30, 2011, will qualify to be prominently displayed on a distinguished donor plaque at E.J. Whitmire Stadium. Don't miss your chance to be a part of Catamount history!

WOMEN'S TENNIS COACH



Chris Wollett

Chris Wollett has been named the head women's tennis coach for WCU. He comes from Country Club of Ocala, Fla., where he was the tennis professional.

Wollett was named director of tennis/head tennis professional in 2009 at Country Club of Ocala. Prior to 2009, he was the assistant tennis professional there.

Wollett played tennis at University of Mary Washington, a Division III school located in Fredericksburg, Va., from 2001-02. While at UMW, he helped the Eagles to back-to-back Capital Athletic Conference titles and to become a top-ranked Division III team. He also garnered many honors, such as CAC team winner and CAC individual winner, and competed in the 2001 Division III national tennis tournament. After the 2002 season, Wollett transferred to University of North Florida, where he received a degree in international studies and became a walk-on for the Ospreys tennis team.

He worked with his younger sister to help her toward a collegiate tennis career at Georgia Southern University, where she became a four-year starter. Wollett is certified by the United State Professional Tennis Registry as a tennis professional.

WOMEN'S GOLF COACH



Mallory Hetzel

Mallory Hetzel joins WCU athletics as the new head women's golf coach. She replaces Steve Lott, who retired in May 2010 after spending 12 years at the helm of the program.

Hetzel hails originally from Summerville, S.C., and is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in advertising.

She competed in the Duramed Futures Tour after graduation from UGA.

As a Bulldog, she earned honors as first team all-SEC and NCGA all-American, and was named twice to SEC Honor Roll. Hetzel also was a member of the 2007 SEC championship Georgia team and a medalist of the UNLV spring invitational.

Hetzel was a two-time state high school champion golfer. She also was a two-time South Carolina player of the year, won the South Carolina women's state amateur championship, was a four-time AJGA All-American, and was Carolinas Golf Association Player of the Year.

Hetzel will bring excellent leadership skills along with a more difficult schedule to enhance the opportunity to advance to the NCAA regionals.

MEN'S GOLF COACH



Carter Cheves

Carter Cheves has accepted the position as head men's golf coach, replacing Gorham Bradley, who spent six years as the WCU head men's golf coach and now is director of the Catamount Club.

Cheves is a native of Apex and spent two years at North Carolina State (fall of 2004, spring and fall of 2005 and spring of 2006) before transferring to UNC Wilmington, where he graduated in December 2008 with a bachelor's degree in operations management.

As an amateur, Cheves was a two-time Tri Seven All-Conference selection, three-time letterman at Apex High School, 2004 WNC junior champion and a 2005 semifinalist for the Herald-Sun Golf Classic. While at N.C. State, he was named to the Dean's List and ACC Academic Honor Roll and earned scholar athlete honors in 2004-05.

Cheves gained experience as a P.J. Boatwright intern for the Carolinas Golf Association during the summer of 2008 and was Bradley's assistant coach for the past two years.

2010 ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT INTERNS



Lindsey Lessing

Lessing graduated in May 2010 from Oklahoma State University, where she earned her bachelor of science in business administration.

Lessing has extensive experience working with the OSU athletic department, concentrating in marketing. She also worked for the Big 12 Women's Basketball Tournament and as operations staff at the recreation center at Oklahoma State University.

Lessing's major responsibilities will be in marketing, being the point person for certain sports, game day duties and activation of sponsorships.



Gregory Lautzenheiser

Lautzenheiser comes to WCU from Western Illinois University, where he received his master's in May 2010. He is originally from Van Wert, Ohio, and earned

a bachelor of science in education, sports management, and a minor in journalism at Bowling Green State University. Lautzenheiser brings a great deal of experience as a media relations and communications intern at Western Illinois University, University of Findlay and Bowling Green State University.

Lautzenheiser will be the primary contact for volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track and field, and women's tennis.



Julie Miller

Miller graduated in May 2009 from the University of South Carolina – Upstate, where she earned a degree in communications. Following graduation Miller went to work for The Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg, SC where she held the position of Assistant golf professional through July 2010.

Miller's areas of responsibility will be in assisting with the Catamount Club in day-to-day operations and the coordination of special events; such as The Catamount Golf Tour, The Purple Zone and the Student-Athlete Scholarship Banquet.

METHODS OF GIVING

CASH GIFTS Cash and checks are the most common types of donations. Please make your checks payable to the WCU Foundation and note "Catamount Club" in the memo section.

CREDIT CARDS The Catamount Club accepts Visa and MasterCard for pledge payments. For your convenience, the Catamount Club offers online giving at www.catamountsports.com.

SCHEDULED PAYMENTS The new scheduled payments option is an easy and painless way to fulfill your contribution to the Catamount Club. Arrange a monthly, quarterly or semiannual contribution through a bank account or credit card draft to pay your annual contribution to the Catamount Club, and then don't worry about it again. To set up scheduled payment, call the Catamount Club at 828.227.3794.

SECURITIES Appreciated stocks are excellent options to make a gift to the Catamount Club because the donor may avoid capital gains taxes and still receive a charitable income tax deduction. Please contact Brian Frerking at 828.227.2666 or bcfreking@wcu.edu for information on transferring securities to the Catamount Club.

MATCHING GIFTS Many companies and corporations provide matching gift programs for employee contributions. Check out the new **MATCHING GIFT SEARCH ENGINE** on the Catamount Club website to see if your employer matches gifts and how it can increase your gift and benefit level.

GIFTS IN-KIND Rather than a monetary gift, the Catamount Club may accept goods and services that assist in reducing expenditures to the Athletics budget.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS An endowment may be established in honor or memory of an individual, family or organization to provide a perpetual gift for WCU Athletics. Gifts to the endowment fund are invested and a portion of the return is used to fund scholarships each year. This gift will create an eternal legacy of your support for Western Carolina Athletics, as the principal is never spent.

PLANNED GIFTS Planned deferred gifts are an increasingly popular way to make a significant contribution to Catamount Athletics. Insurance policies, real estate, annuities, bequests and trusts are among the ways to leave a legacy to WCU.

CATAMOUNT CLUB 2010-2011 BENEFITS CHART

| BENEFITS | CHAMPIONS CLUB (in-state tuition each year for 4 years) | I-CATS (\$5,500 per year for 5 years) | VARSITY CLUB \$3,000 | COACHES CLUB \$1,850 | CULLOWHEE CAT \$1,250 | TOP CAT \$750 | SUPER CAT \$400 | PURPLE CAT \$200 | CATAMOUNT \$100 |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Scholarship Dinner and Scholarship Plaque | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual Trip with Team of Choice | | | | | | | | | |
| Exclusive Catamount Club Signature Items | | | | | | | | | |
| Exclusive Catamount Club Social Events | | | | | | | | | |
| Embroidered Apparel | | | | | | | | | |
| Invitation to Football Purple Zone | | | | | | | | | |
| Invitation to Basketball Purple Zone | | | | | | | | | |
| Catamount Club Gift | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority Football Parking (season ticket holders only) | Stadium Lot | Stadium Lot | Stadium Lot | Stadium Lot | Creek Lot | Creek Lot | Creek Lot | Creek Lot (if available) | |
| Priority Football Season Tickets | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority Basketball Season Tickets | | | | | | | | | |
| Cat's Pause (quarterly newsletter) | | | | | | | | | |
| Game Program Recognition | | | | | | | | | |
| Catamount Club Membership Card | | | | | | | | | |
| Catamount Club Decal & License Plate | | | | | | | | | |
| Tax Deduction | | | | | | | | | |

ALEX CRUTCHFIELD

Alex Crutchfield communicates the importance of the Catamount Club through his involvement in the new alumni program.

While a student at Western Carolina, Crutchfield always tried to show his support by attending athletic events and cheering the Catamounts to victory. He still shows his support by attending athletic events whenever the new Washington, D.C., resident can travel back to campus, but now he shows support by contributing to the Catamount Club Scholarship Fund.

Crutchfield, a 2008 graduate in communication, has been involved with the Catamount Club at the Top Cat level and understands that his contributions help win championships and that he and other alumni can be proud to be Catamounts.

The Greensboro native came to WCU in 2004 and found his pride for Western Carolina athletics when the Catamounts defeated Appalachian State for the Old Mountain Jug.

"That was one of my most memorable moments as a student at WCU," Crutchfield said. "It was exciting to witness a great come-from-behind win and the first win since 1983."



That win was so memorable to Crutchfield that even winning \$10,000 during a half-court shot competition during his junior year at a men's basketball game couldn't surpass it.

Crutchfield strives to get more young alumni involved with the Catamount Club because he realizes the success of the Catamount Club will help provide scholarships to successful student-athletes. Funding scholarships and winning championships will bring more

attention to WCU. He has been urging other young alumni to become more involved and support the Catamounts.

"Support the Cat's by attending athletic events, financially giving back and mentioning WCU with pride," Crutchfield said. "Athletics contribute to the publicity the university receives. Look at Butler and their Final Four run in 2010 and Appalachian State's three national championships."

"Winning in athletics contributes to a rise in publicity and applicants," Crutchfield said. "Having a winning program will create Catamount pride in alumni and fans wanting to give back to the university."

When Crutchfield pursues young alumni, he talks about the love that he has for WCU. Crutchfield talks about how the campus and surrounding area is beautiful and how every alumni received a first-class education. But the thing the he shows pride in the most is the basketball program, specifically the women's basketball team going to the NCAA Tournament in the 2008-09 season and men's basketball winning 22 games last season and getting a postseason tournament bid.

"I love the basketball program and where it is headed," Crutchfield said.

He has enjoyed his involvement in the Catamount Club, seeing the basketball programs doing well and the baseball team going to the Southern Conference tournament title game. He also has enjoyed the perks during his membership, including watching the men's basketball team from the Catamount Club suite in Time Warner Cable Arena for the Southern Conference basketball tournament or the party suite for the Coaches Caravan held at the Greensboro Grasshoppers NewBridge Bank Park.

With the growing success of the athletic programs at Western Carolina, the benefits he receives and the pride he has for the Catamounts, Crutchfield looks to increase his giving, recruit young alumni and attend more events.





NORMAN WEST CATAMOUNT CLUB PRESIDENT

Norman West of Cullowhee has taken over duties from Kenny Messer as the Catamount Club president. West visited with Cat's Pause about the goals and direction of the Catamount Club.

How important is success in athletics for the success of the university?

West: Very important. No matter how you break it down, how you make excuses or rationalize things, a winner is a winner. Winning breeds winners, not only for athletics but for all aspects of the university. Do you think more of the general public would identify WCU's academic programs or an 8-2 loss football team? During the 2009-10 athletic year, the Catamounts had great success, with 22 wins in men's basketball and record crowds at several games, baseball won 37 games and went to the tournament championship. Track and field always does exceedingly well, and our golf teams are now recognized nationally. With the direction our football program is going, we will soon have a sports product that everyone will be talking about. The more people talk about WCU, the better for everyone.

What are your goals for the Catamount Club?

West: My main goal will be to increase membership in the Catamount Club. I hope to make the board of directors proactive in helping with this effort. I would love to see

membership in the Catamount Club grow to more than 1,000. That number will help to spread the word to the Catamount Nation. Alumni want our athletic programs to do well, but some choose not to support us for whatever reason. People do not need much of a reason to withhold support, and they will unless asked for their support. We have entry membership for \$100. That contribution and new supporters will be vital to our efforts.

What can Catamount Club members do to help?

West: They can be proud of Western Carolina University. They can keep up with our teams and spread the word to put forward a positive attitude. We have all the pieces in place to make Catamount sports a force in the Southern Conference. We can all be proud of what Chip Smith and our coaches and staff have accomplished. We also can help by being ambassadors for this institution and athletic department. In my 46 years of following the Catamounts I have learned three things that bear repeating: 1. Over the years, things happen that everyone does not agree with. We can't undo what has been done and people need to get over it. 2. College sports are very expensive. 3. It cannot be done without help from the Catamount Nation.

CATAMOUNTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Student-athletes at Western Carolina University enjoyed a very successful 2009-10 season both athletically and academically. Last year, a combined 86 Catamounts earned recognition on one of the three seasonal academic all-conference teams for the fall, winter and spring, in addition to a wealth of other academic success stories.

Academic All-Conference

A total of 27 student-athletes who compete in fall seasons were named to the first SoCon academic all-conference, including 12 from the women's soccer team alone. WCU led the league with 25 student-athletes named to the winter all-academic team with a combined 15 from men's and women's indoor track and

field, while 34 Catamount student-athletes graced the spring academic all-conference team, featuring nine from women's track and field and eight from the baseball team.

Academic All-District

Along the way, Western Carolina had three student-athletes earn academic all-district honors as women's basketball player Kristen Feemster was a second-team selection; men's basketball's Jake Robinson was a first-team all-District III honoree; and Tyler Kirkpatrick from baseball landed on the all-district second team.

Academic All-American

Robinson went on to earn third-team College Sports Information Directors of America

Academic All-America status, the first WCU basketball player to receive the honor since Myron Lewis in 1990 and the fourth Catamount student-athlete since 2000 to earn the plaudits. The Canton native joined former baseball player Ryan Schade (2002), Jason Whaley (2003) from football and Yoneko Allen (2004) from women's basketball to earn the recognition.

Similarly, three WCU women's golfers were named to the 2009-10 National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar team as Blaire Minter, Rachel Nelson and Malin Jansson were selected to the organization's honorary squad.

MEET THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE CATAMOUNT CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gail Debnam '90 Gail and her husband, Jack, have a true love of college athletics and have been actively involved with WCU athletics since moving to Cullowhee

from the Raleigh area in 1988. Owners of local real estate business Western Carolina Properties, Gail and Jack live in Dillsboro and are members at the Varsity Club level.



Steve White '67 Steve has nearly half a century of service to WCU. Steve graduated from Western Carolina and served more than four decades before officially retiring in April. In 1970 he took over as the

schools sports information director, a position he held until 1998. After his departure from sports information director, he was the color commentator with the Catamount Sports Network until 2007. Then he became the director of the former WCU student-athlete letter winner club. Steve and his wife, Elaine, reside in Cullowhee and are members at the Varsity Club level.



Mark Reeser '80 Mark has had a connection since 1964, when he moved to Cullowhee. Mark played collegiate baseball as a scholarship athlete and is ranked in the top 10 in

career batting averages. His daughter, Olivia Reeser, is a 2008 graduate of WCU, and he manages Reeser Appraisal Services in Sylva. Mark is a member at the Cullowhee Cat level.



Chuck Walker Chuck is a graduate of Harvard University, where he lettered in baseball and hockey. He is a member of the Harvard Hall of Fame and won a national

championship in hockey. Chuck became involved with WCU athletics through past board of director president Kenny Messer. Chuck has committed \$50,000 to assist the Catamount football team scholarships and has helped to raise money for football, baseball and men's golf at WCU. Chuck is currently a member of the Champions Club and resides in Alpharetta, Ga.



Dave Fowler '75 Fowler is a longtime supporter of the Catamount Club and WCU. He has been a member of the Alumni Association board of directors and served on the Alumni Tower committee. He

resides in Cape Carteret, where he serves as commissioner. Dave and his wife, Wanda, are members of the Catamount Club at the Top Cat level.



Willie Carpenter '80 Willie is a legend to WCU athletics both on the gridiron and diamond. Willie is a Hall of Famer at WCU and brings a deep knowledge of finance to the board. He

has strong ties to the Bob Waters era and can be instrumental in building relationships with former players from football and baseball from the late '70s to early '80s. Willie resides in Miami and is a member at the Top Cat level.

Student-Athletes earn national recognition

In early July, Western Carolina had seven student-athletes tabbed 2010 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars by the publication *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Feemster (women's basketball) was joined by teammates Jessica Jackson and Brittany Ferguson, with men's basketball's Antoine Childs, Renee Anderson from women's soccer, Jettana Thomas from track and field and John Julien from football also garnering the recognition.

Two Catamount student-athletes were named recipients of the fifth annual Coleman Lew Leadership Award as announced by the Southern Conference and Coleman Lew & Associates Inc. Women's basketball's Emily

Clarke and quarterback Zack Jaynes from the football team were two of the 24 Southern Conference student-athletes to be selected for the award.

Scholars of the Year

On the academic front at the year-end awards banquet, WCU track and field athlete Luke Burton was named the male scholar-athlete of the year, while women's volleyball standout Carrie Minogue was tabbed the female scholar-athlete of the year. Burton, who is majoring in chemistry with a minor in Spanish, boasted a cumulative GPA of 3.958 through the fall of 2009 while Minogue had a 4.0 with an intended major of business with a minor in marketing.

Catamount Club gets new assistant director

Jeremiah Fisher isn't a new face to athletics and the Catamount Club. Fisher arrived at Western Carolina in May 2009 to begin an internship with WCU athletics. After starting another internship with the Catamount Club in November 2009, he took the role of interim assistant director of the Catamount Club in February, with the position becoming permanent in July.

As the assistant director, his duties include gift processing, account acquisitions, coordination of Cat's Pause quarterly newsletter, special events and the coordination of the new student Catamount Club.

Fisher graduated from Ball State University, located in Indiana, in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in sports administration.



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FIGHT SONG

Fight on, you Catamounts
Fight on, you Catamounts
Fight for purple and gold
Fight on to victory
True warriors bold
Wave the royal banner high
And let it fill the western sky
So fight on! You Catamounts
Fight to victory
Western, Western, Go—Western! Go—Cats!

*Adopted in 1981, Western Carolina's
fight song was composed by members
of the university faculty.*

ALMA MATER

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
Faithful, kind, and true;
Every son and every daughter
Offers praise to you
CHORUS
Hail to the dearest spot of all;
Hail to WCU!
Light and life and fond devotion
All to thee are due.
Purple robes and colors golden,
Streaming everywhere,
Swell our hearts with pride for olden
Days and friendships dear.

(chorus)

Under shade trees' friendly bowers,
Voices, ever gay,
Mingle with the breath of flowers
and the song bird's lay.

(chorus)

Shout aloud with one long chorus,
Voices clear and true,
Lifted high in praise and honor,
All for WCU!

(chorus)

